



Padre Island National Seashore
SandDollar



Friday, June 11, 2004

Superintendent

To all:

Unfortunately, our little slice of heaven here at the Seashore can be a dangerous place on occasions. It is important for me to share a serious concern I have and to assure all of us as employees are following safe practices and procedures.

Illegal smuggling of narcotics through Padre Island is a very serious and potentially dangerous situation. We are working diligently on an exciting initiative that will bring significantly increased cooperation from our federal and state law enforcement partners. While it is important to build our operational capacity, my first concern and highest priority is the safety of the employees, park volunteers, and visitors of this park.

All non-law enforcement personnel are to follow some simple precautions while conducting their duties down island. If you observe a suspicious package, bundle, or bale that you believe may be narcotics, you are to report to dispatch immediately and leave the area. Do not stay with, move, pick-up or transport any suspicious package you believe could be narcotics. Do not wait or stay with the package until rangers arrive. Report the location to dispatch, and leave the area.

The same procedure applies if you observe a gulf side landing of a motor boat. Vessels that are typically used for the delivery of narcotics to the beaches of the Seashore are open hulled boats about 23-25' with outboard engines. These vessels are known as "shark boats" or "launches" and are commonly used for fishing. You should report the landing location to dispatch and leave the area. Do not approach the vessel or try to intervene

with any activity associated with these boat landings. After getting a very safe distance away (miles) take note of any suspicious vehicles on the beach and report to rangers later.

Our law enforcement rangers and cooperating law enforcement agencies will respond to and manage these types of incidents appropriately. We are preparing written safety precautions which will be available soon.

It is unlikely most of us will ever encounter these kinds of situations while working here at Padre Island. While the likelihood is low, the potential exist, and I must insist that all of you follow these safety precautions.

Respectfully,

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 6/14	– In the Park
Tuesday, 6/15	– In the Park; Squad Meeting @ 8:30 am
Wed., 6/16	– In the Park
Thurs., 6/17	– In the Park; Meetings In S.A. & Austin
Friday, 6/18	– In the Park; Meetings In Austin

Safety Notes--

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

Employees Association News - Jerry Seinfeld will be performing at the Selena Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 16, 2004. Tickets go on sale May 22, 2004. If you are interested in attending please let Dimitra know. Tickets will be approximately \$45.00 + a service charge. An 8 ticket limit per purchaser is being enforced. If more than 8 people would like to go, we will definitely need an additional 'ticket buyer.'

Administration

Betty will be cruising in Alaska June 4-14. Janie Garcia will be Acting Administrative Officer during this time.

June 16 will be the last day for Katherine Key and Larissa Bright.

Nancy Echols will begin working for Donna on June 13.

Joe Hanisco has changed his resignation date to June 26. His last day will be June 11th.

Congratulations Betty Frantum and Randy Larson! They have been awarded Star Awards for their work as Acting Superintendents prior to Colin's arrival.

FEGLI Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.

PAIS-E-7, Park Ranger (Protection), GS-0025-5/7/9 will be open to status employees (Merit Promotion) from June 4-21, 2004. Applications will be sent to PAIS. Another vacancy announcement will be opened in the near future by OPM and will be open to all sources (all qualified). Once I get a definite date, I will pass it on. This announcement will be for Park Ranger (Protection) at the GS-5 and GS-7 levels only with promotion potential to the GS-9. Applications must be sent to the address in the announcement (probably San Antonio). Both announcements will be posted on the HQ bulletin board and at www.usajobs.opm.gov

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

IDP The Interpretive Analysis Model	06/03/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
IDP Interpretive Techniques or How to Create Opportunities for Connections to Resource Meanings	06/08/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	06/10/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:30
Informal Interpretation Module 102: Interpretive Development Program	06/15/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00
IDP The Interpretive Process Model	06/16/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/28/2004	Monday	1:00-4:00
Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/29/2004	Tuesday	1:00-4:00
Gateway Communities: Keys to Success	07/08/2004	Thursday	12:30-3:30
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	07/14/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	07/15/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	07/19/2004	Monday	1:30-3:30
Resolving Performance Issues	08/10/2004	Tuesday	2:00-2:00
Dealing with Misconduct	08/10/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00 -4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00

TEL Training

Starting July 1st trainings will be closing 5 business days before the event.

The TEL training registration has changed. For all future classes, you must notify Jeanie which course you want to take, she will have to register the site, then the employee will have to go to <http://mylearning.nps.gov> to register themselves for the class.

My Learning Manager will also have all other service wide training listed and the employee will sign up for classes/training. Once an employee registers for a class an email will automatically be sent to their supervisor for approval.

The trailer will be used for TEL training on July 8, 14, 15.

Facility Management

Please be patient with the contractors installing the sprinkler system in the Headquarters building. There will be some necessary inconvenience related to noise, fumes from soldering pipes, and debris. Every effort will be made to minimize the impact on working operations. The contractors are working as quickly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Facility Management would like to remind everyone of the following:

All chemical containers must be labeled with the manufacturer's label or HMIS labels. Glenda can provide you with this information.

Please do not put a chemical in a container that is labeled for another container, i.e., do not put transmission fluid into a container that is labeled for boat oil. This could lead to disastrous results.

Thank you!

Interpretation

On June 19, Thrivent Financial will be having a clean-up from 9:00-12:00. Currently, 51 people have signed up to attend and more will likely sign up as time draws near. We have not yet determined which section of beach they will clean. They will be alerted to watch for sea turtles.

As everyone may recall, last year before he left, Jock requested that I photograph everyone on the staff. I have taken those photos and placed them on the shared drive under s:/graphics/staff for anyone

who wants one or wants to view them. If you do not like your own photo, please feel free to delete it.

Protection

Thanks to Gary Carroll and David Poe for instructing a boat operators course for park employees from Padre Island and Big Thicket. One employee was overheard saying "I can't believe we get paid for going out on a boat." Must admit we all work in a pretty great place.

It has been noticed that security is lacking again. Doors are being found unlocked and the gate to the vehicle compound is being left unlocked frequently. All employees are responsible for insuring the safeguard of offices, vehicles, and all government property. Supervisors should reiterate this to all employees. Don't let the park become a victim. Please do your part in making sure all our buildings and property are protected.

Colin has signed a new compendium addition that prohibits the use of amphibious vehicles in park waters including both the Laguna Madre and Gulf of Mexico. Amphibious vehicles have the ability to travel directly between land and water unlike a motor vehicle or vessel that is designed to stay on either a road or water. These versatile vehicles have the ability to access sensitive areas in the park and cause damage to park shorelines, native vegetation, and aquatic resources. Nothing in the new regulation precludes the personal use of amphibious vehicles if they remain on park roads and beaches that are open to other motor vehicles.

Resources Management

Personnel:

- Katie Key and Larissa Bright's last day is Wednesday, June 16.
- Darrell is waiting for the cert for the two biotech positions and hopes to hire soon.

Projects:

- The washover basin is now being surveyed every other Thursday. This change is due to Katie's new school schedule.

Oil and Gas

- BNP has begun drilling the Peach well. Drilling is progressing well.

Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

THANK YOU - We are having a very successful turtle season and want to thank park employees and volunteers for their help. Things have been very hectic with nesting and hatching and we greatly appreciate all of the assistance that you have given with the nests, hatchling releases, and other tasks.

KEMP'S RIDLEY NESTING CONTINUES - So far this year (through morning June 10), 36 Kemp's ridley nests have been found on the Texas coast. With over a month left in the nesting season, it seems certain that we will exceed the yearly record of 38 nests found in Texas during 2002. The nests found so far this year include two discovered on Bolivar Peninsula, two on Galveston Island, one near Surfside in Brazoria County, two on Mustang Island, three on North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore, 19 at Padre Island National Seashore, three on South Padre Island, and four on Boca Chica Beach.

Another arribada! Nests 30-34 were located during an exciting arribada that occurred at the park on June 5. These five were the most Kemp's ridley nests found at the park on a single day. Beach visitors found and reported nesting females to turtle patrollers Lisa Presley and Luis Diaz, leading to the discovery of nests 30 and 31, respectively. On the way to retrieve the eggs from these sites, Donna and Rachael found a Kemp's ridley crossing the vehicular roadway and nest 32. While conducting turtle patrols, Jeanniemae Febus found a nesting Kemp's ridley and nest 33, and Dale Kohlmetz found tracks and nest 34. None of the three turtles that we examined during this arribada possessed any tags.

Nest 35 was found on Mustang Island at about 2:20 pm on Sunday June 6. A visitor found the nester and off-duty Maintenance Division employee Gary Worthen came upon the scene seconds later. Gary immediately notified dispatch at the park about the nesting. As we requested, he held the nesting turtle and secured the scene until we

arrived on site. He then showed us where the nest was located, and aided with the documentation of the turtle and retrieval of the nest. This was the mother of clutch 8 that nested at the PAIS 27 mile marker on May 2.

Nest 36 was found at the 9 mile marker on Tuesday June 8. Volunteer Dale Bowers was conducting a turtle patrol when he spotted the nesting turtle emerging from the sea and crawling up the beach. Dale also found a nest last year! This nester had no tags.

A loggerhead nest was found by turtle patrollers on South Padre Island. This is the first sea turtle nest found on the Texas coast this year that is from a species other than Kemp's ridley. We have designated this as nest 37.

Eggs from all nests except those found on South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach are transferred to our incubation facility at Padre Island National Seashore for protected care. The eggs from South Padre and Boca Chica are transferred to a corral (screen enclosed area) on South Padre Island.

Nest 2 was released on Sunday June 6. We released the 80 hatchlings from clutch 2 at about 7:00 am on Sunday June 6. About 200 enthusiastic visitors and several park staff members and volunteers attended.

Nest 5 has just started to hatch and the hatchlings will likely be released sometime during the first few days of the week of June 13. The hatchlings from the clutches held in our incubation facility will be released when they are physically ready and enter their infantile frenzy, typically sometime during a span of a few days that Donna predicts. The release date predictions for the nests currently held in the incubation facility are listed in the table below. This table will also be posted on the Padre Island National Seashore website (www.nps.gov/pais/), under the heading of upcoming events. As during past years, the staff and public will be invited to attend as many of our hatchling releases as possible. Public releases are announced to begin at 6:30 am, to allow enough time for the Interpretation Division staff to give a brief program to the public before we place the hatchlings on the beach between 6:45 am and

7:00 am. Please note that we are unable to invite people to watch those releases that occur when the turtles enter their frenzy at unpredictable times, during the night, or during weather conditions that could be unsafe for the turtles or people (i.e., thunderstorms, very high tides, etc.). So, to increase the chance of seeing a release, we advise interested individuals traveling from out of town to try to attend when hatchlings from more than one nest are predicted to be released. As we near the predicted release dates for each clutch, Donna will update information about the releases on the Hatchling Hotline (telephone 361-949-7163). As during previous years, the Hatchling Hotline will be the best source of the most current information on the next release.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT
THE
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

Nest # (Species)	Date Found	Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates
1 (Kemp's ridley)	April 5	Released May 24-28
2 (Kemp's ridley)	April 17	Released June 6
5 (Kemp's ridley)	April 26	June 13-18
6, 7 (Kemp's ridley)	May 1	June 17-23
8 (Kemp's ridley)	May 2	June 18-24
10, 11 (Kemp's ridley)	May 11	June 27-July 2
14 (Kemp's ridley)	May 14	June 30-July 5
15, 16 (Kemp's ridley)	May 17	July 3-8
18 (Kemp's ridley)	May 21	July 7-12
19-24 (Kemp's ridley)	May 22	July 8-13
25 (Kemp's ridley)	May 23	July 9-14
27 (Kemp's ridley)	May 30	July 16-21
28-29 (Kemp's ridley)	June 3	July 20-25
30-34 (Kemp's ridley)	June 5	July 22-27
35 (Kemp's ridley)	June 6	July 23-28
36 (Kemp's ridley)	June 8	July 25-30

Note that nests 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, 17, 26, and 37 are being held in a corral on South Padre Island, Texas

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